

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/811,149

Examiner

Negussie Worku

Applicant(s)

IKEDA, MAKOTO

Art Unit

2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to June 27, 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-10.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 6/25/01; 5/13/04
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Negussie Worku
8/31/06

DOUGLAS Q. TRAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Translog

DETAILED ACTION

Reasons for Allowance

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: In response to the Office action dated March 23, 2006, and further to the amendments filed June 27, 2006, applicant's request in view of the amendments and remarks have been reviewed and respectfully considered.

Claims 1-4 and 9-4 have been allowed in the last office action mailed March 23, 2006, and the only claim rejected in the Office action was claim 5 as indicted in the last Office action.

Applicant's response/remarks discussed in page 5, and the amendment to claim 5, has been reviewed and fully considered.

Accordingly, applicant's arguments discussed in the response, the prior art used to reject the claimed invention had been overcome by applicant's amendment as indicted in page three of claim 5.

Specifically, with respect to claim 5, the prior art of record neither anticipates nor suggests a line illuminating device having a pair of light guide arranged to guide light from a light source incident from an end surface in the longitudinal direction and to scatter the incident light at light scattering patterns disposed, printed or laminated upon

Art Unit: 2625

the pair of light guides and formed intermittently over the longitudinal direction so as to irradiate the same area of a document- reading plane, characterized in that these light guides are alternately arranged so that the light-scattering patterns formed on one light guide compensate for the shortage of light-scattering patterns formed on the other light guide.

Therefore, claims 5-8 have been allowed for the reason the prior art searched and of record neither anticipates nor suggests the claimed invention as amended.

Further, claim 1-4, 9 and 10 also allowed for the same reason as indicted in the previous Office action dated March 23, 2006, as further discussed below.

With respect to claims 1-4, the prior art searched and of record neither anticipates nor suggests (Original) A line illuminating device having two light guides for guiding light from a light source incident from an end surface in the longitudinal direction and for emitting the light from an emission plane formed along the longitudinal direction, characterized in that these light guides are arranged in such a manner that the light emitted from the emission plane of each light guide irradiates the same area of a document-reading plane, and one light guide is provided, at one end of its longitudinal direction, with a first light-emitting source, while the other light guide is provided, at the other end of its longitudinal direction, with a second light-emitting source.

With respect to claim 9, the prior art searched and of record neither anticipates nor suggests a line illuminating device having a light guide for guiding light from a light

Art Unit: 2625

source incident from an end surface in the longitudinal direction and for scattering the light at light-scattering patterns formed along the longitudinal direction to emit this light from an emission plane, this line illuminating device being provided with two line illuminating units for housing the light guide in a casing, characterized in that each line illuminating unit is arranged in such a manner that the light emitted from the emission plane of each light guide irradiates the same area of the document-reading plane, and the light guide casing has at least an outside section treated to control scattering and reflection of the light.

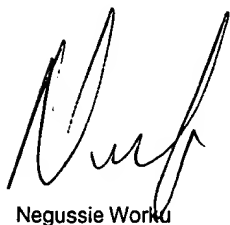
With respect to claims 10, the prior art searched and of record neither anticipates nor suggests a light illuminating device having a light guide for conducting light from a light source incident from an end surface in the longitudinal direction and for scattering the light at light-scattering patterns formed along the longitudinal direction to emit this light from an emission plane, this line illuminating device being provided with two line illuminating units for housing the light guide in a casing, characterized in that each line illuminating unit is arranged in such a manner that the light emitted from the emission plane of each light guide irradiates the same area of a document-reading plane, and the light guide casing has at least an outside section covered by a member for controlling scattering and reflection of the light.

Art Unit: 2625

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Negussie Worku whose telephone number is 571-272-7472. The examiner can normally be reached on 9am-6pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Moore can be reached on 571-272-7437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Negussie Worku

08/31/06

DOUGLAS Q. TRAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

